Master of Public Administration

With a unique combination of theoretically grounded course work and practical application, our Master of Public Administration (https://spaa.ku.edu/master-public-administration-mpa/) degree provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to lead, innovate, and problem-solve in public sector and non-profit settings.

Our Edwin O. Stene Master's program is one of the oldest and most respected programs in the United States, beginning with our local government leadership program founded in 1948. Since 1998, our tradition of excellence in educating students at the masters' level has been recognized by U.S. News and World Report with a #1 ranking in city management.

The MPA degree meets the needs of both full-time students who are looking to launch a career in public service as well as those who already have a career and are looking to accelerate it by pursuing a MPA degree part-time. The MPA degree may be obtained through course work offered at the Lawrence Campus, the KU Edwards Campus in Overland Park, Kansas, and the Leavenworth location.

City Management Fellowship

MPA students specifically interested in city management are invited to apply to our 2-year City Management Fellowship program (https://spaa.ku.edu/citycounty-management-mpa-fellowship-program/). City management is the School of Public Affairs and Administration's most recognized program and has been ranked the #1 program in the country by U.S. News and World Report since 1998.

Admission to the City Management Fellowship program is competitive - only a small cohort of Fellows is selected each year. Fellows receive all of the advantages of being in the largest KU MPA program and also benefit from:

- Designated scholarship awards
- Attendance to the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) annual meeting, supported by the School;
- Links to a large and welcoming professional network;
- Peer group learning and camaraderie;
- Additional experiential learning through part-time and full-time internships and other professional development opportunities.

The key distinctive feature of the Fellowship is its structure where the first year revolves around full-time intensive coursework and the second revolves around a full-time, paid internship.

Admission to Graduate Studies

An applicant seeking to pursue graduate study in the College may be admitted as either a degree-seeking or non-degree seeking student. Policies and procedures of Graduate Studies govern the process of Graduate admission. These may be found in the Graduate Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies/) section of the online catalog.

Please consult the Departments & Programs (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/) section of the online catalog for information regarding program-specific admissions criteria and requirements. Special admissions requirements pertain to Interdisciplinary Studies degrees, which may be found in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog.

M.P.A. Admission

Please visit the M.P.A. Admissions page (https://spaa.ku.edu/master-public-administration-mpa/) for complete admissions information.

For all applicants, a completed application includes:

1. Online Graduate Studies application (https://gradapply.ku.edu/apply/).
2. A nonrefundable application fee, submitted online with the application form.
3. 1 official transcript from the degree-granting college or university and any post-graduate college or university attended.
4. 3 letters of recommendation. If possible, at least 1 should be an academic reference.
5. A 3- to 5-page essay describing your background and career goals and clearly indicating how the M.P.A. degree fits into those goals and addressing any deficiencies in your academic preparation.
6. A current résumé.
7. A writing sample that is at least 5 pages long. It should be a well-cited work in which you critically analyze (not just summarize) an issue.
8. Non-native speakers of English must meet Graduate Studies English proficiency requirements (https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/).

Students who are interested in enrolling in master's level coursework in public administration without formal admission to the graduate program are encouraged to apply for graduate non-degree seeking student status.

Deadlines

To begin in the spring semester, applications must be received by November 1.

To begin in the fall semester, applications must be received by May 1.

To begin in the summer semester, applications must be received by February 1.

Applicants interested in the City Management Fellowship must apply by the February 1 deadline and be prepared to begin full-time course work in the following Summer semester.

Campuses

Students can complete their M.P.A degree by taking classes at the main campus in Lawrence or the Edwards Campus in Overland Park. MPA courses are also offered at the Leavenworth location to accommodate Fort Leavenworth and Kansas Northland students.

MPA Degree Requirements

The MPA degree is awarded after successful completion of 43 credit hours of course work. This includes 16 credit hours of required core courses (5 courses) that all students complete, 12 credit hours toward one School of Public Affairs and Administration graduate certificate (https://kupa.ku.edu/graduate-certificates/) (4 courses), 12 hours of electives tailored to the student's interests (4 courses), and an experiential learning requirement which can be completed as detailed below (1 course). In addition, all students must pass a written master's examination (final paper) to complete the requirements for the MPA degree. Once a student
begins the program, all degree requirements must be completed within 7 years.

The MPA core provides students with knowledge and skills foundational to advanced educational and professional engagement in public affairs and administration fields. They provide an important underpinning for the MPA certificates and are transferable across a range of public service professions. The MPA core course work includes the following courses (16 credit hours):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUAD 824</td>
<td>Creating Good Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUAD 835</td>
<td>Managing Public Money</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUAD 836</td>
<td>Data Informed Decision-Making</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUAD 841</td>
<td>Context, Ethics and Legal Environment of Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUAD 845</td>
<td>Managing Public Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

To complete the MPA program, students will also take the following courses OR complete the City Management Fellows MPA program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 School of Public Affairs &amp; Administration graduate certificate</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Electives of additional School of Public Affairs &amp; Administration</td>
<td>course work or graduate course work outside the School chosen in consultation with the program advisor</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Completion of 1 of the following experiential learning options:

- PUAD 898 Leading to Create a Culture for High Performance
- or PUAD 892 Internship Experience in Local Government Administration
- or PUAD 839 Topics in Public Administration: _____

Alternatively, students may apply to the City Management Fellowship program (http://kupa.ku.edu/city-management-fellowship-0/). Admission to this two-year fellowship is competitive—only a small cohort of fellows is selected each year. The key distinctive feature of the fellowship is its structure: the first year revolves around full-time, intensive coursework and the second year revolves around a full-time, paid internship.

Students admitted to the City Management Fellowship program complete the following credits, which include the courses toward the City/County Management graduate certificate (http://kupa.ku.edu/graduate-certificates/city-county-management/), to fulfill degree requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUAD 851</td>
<td>Infrastructure Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUAD 892</td>
<td>Internship Experience in Local Government Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUAD 894</td>
<td>Professional Development Seminar I: Public Admin Contemporary Issues &amp; Competency Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUAD 895</td>
<td>Professional Development Seminar II: Leading to Create a Culture for High Performance (PUAD 895 will count as the experiential learning course to fulfill that component of MPA degree requirements.)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>